

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 23 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §112

At item 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. On March 31, 2004, Examiner McAllister kindly granted a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to discuss the § 112 issues pending in the case. The undersigned indicated to Examiner McAllister that the § 112 objections and rejections presented by the Examiner were correct and that they resulted from language in the specification requiring clarification.

In particular, the undersigned attorney explained that the present invention involves the correlation of digital information linking a purchaser of an electronically purchased item with the item itself, and that, in particular, the term "electronically purchased item" includes a physical item that can be picked up at a location (e.g., a bicycle, electronic device, etc.) or something that can be consumed, such as an event (e.g., a concert or sporting event) represented by a redeemable redemption document (e.g., a ticket). In either case, an electronic indicia containing verification information is associated with the electronically purchased item. In the case of a physical item, the electronic indicia might be on a redemption document in the form of a sticker affixed to the item; in the event of a consumable

electronically purchased item, such as attendance at a concert, the electronic indicia forming the verification information would be presented on a redemption document comprising a ticket to the event.

The specification supports the above description. For clarification purposes, applicant has amended the specification to remove inconsistencies and it is believed that, in its amended state, the specification properly describes these aspects of the invention and any inconsistencies have been removed. In view of these amendments, minor claim amendments have also been made so that claim language consistent with the specification is used.

All of the amendments are made for purposes of clarification only and do not constitute new matter.

In view of the amendments to the specification and claims, applicant submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been overcome.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Enclosed herewith, in triplicate, is a Petition for extension of time to respond to the Examiner's Action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted

4/1/04
Date

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